

HAPPY AUGUST-US! The hot and sticky month of August was named after Julius Caesar's grandnephew, Augustus, who became emperor of the Roman Empire after his legions defeated Cleopatra and Marc Anthony in battle.



GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • AUGUST 2012

BEAUTIFYING DOWNTOWN

There is a transformation under way in downtown Highland. One year after the owner of the Comfort Keepers/Highland Flooring building took advantage of the town's new facade improvement program, the owners of Traditions and Tom's Maytag building are following suit.

Traditions has nearly finished a \$76,000 facelift that includes a large porch for al fresco dining. Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said Apex, the owners of the building next door, are ready to begin construction on a limestone facade project that will add more than \$100,000 in improvements to the building.

Bond proceeds will finance up to 30 percent of the cost of the improvements. Funding is available for downtown businesses, which must

ABOUT THE FACADE PROGRAM

If you own a commercial building in downtown Highland and would like to take advantage of the facade improvement program, contact Cecile Petro at (219) 972-7598 or email cpetro@highland.in.gov.

receive approval from the Redevelopment Commission to qualify for the reimbursement. The maximum town contribution is \$30,000.

"These owners are investing in their businesses and making the town look better at the same time," Petro said. "We are banking on a variety of positives that will follow – increased sales for them and increased foot traffic in the downtown area. We need to remind people how important it is to shop local." 🐦

SAVING MAN'S LIFE IN THE NICK OF TIME

Morgan Wehmer was settling in for a quiet visit with her mom and grandmother at New Petros Restaurant in Woodmar when fate stepped in.

In a few short moments, the Indiana University nursing student forgot about her plans for coffee when she saw a man slumped over at an adjacent table and someone calling out for help from anyone who knew the Heimlich maneuver, a proven strategy for victims who are choking.

"I had just taken a CPR class, where we were taught the Heimlich," she recalled. "The gentleman – Henry Nick, 84, who is from Whiting -- was blue. Food was blocking his airway but his heart had stopped, too. At first, it didn't work but I kept doing what I was taught. The food dislodged and his heart started beating again."

An ambulance rushed Nick to Franciscan St. Margaret Health in Hammond where doctors told Wehmer that she had saved his life.

Nearly a month later, Nick is recovering following surgery to implant a pacemaker. Wehmer is still in awe at how valuable her training turned out to be.



ON THE MEND: Nursing student Morgan Wehmer visits Henry Nick in the hospital after performing CPR and saving his life. [PHOTO PROVIDED]

"After they took him to the hospital, I stood there, shocked, that I had actually done it," the Highland resident said. "I remember telling my CPR partner there was no way I would remember everything I would need to do. I thought I would be too scared to actually perform CPR. Happily, my worries were unfounded. I surprised myself." 🐦

DO YOU KNOW A HOMETOWN HERO? We'd like to hear from you! Call (219) 779-9041 or email gazeboexpress@theideafactory.us.com.

INDY BRIDGE UPDATE

The second half of the Indianapolis Boulevard construction project is expected to begin in late August when road crews switch lanes, moving all traffic to the new bridge deck.

The new bridge will be much safer and dramatically lower than current structure.

At the same time, the Redevelopment Commission is continuing to plan for construction of a landscaped berm and signs that will welcome visitors to Highland just east of the new roadway.

In addition, the Park Department has funding in place that was secured by U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky to construct a paved culvert under the road at Grand Avenue for bike and pedestrian traffic.

CLEARING FOR CULVER'S

Eight months after plans to locate a Culver's Frozen Custard were announced, buildings on the site have been reduced to rubble.

Culver's will replace what was once the Parkmor drive-in during the '50s, '60s and '70s at the southwest corner of Ridge Road and Cline Avenue.

Council President Bernie Zemen said it seems fitting. "People loved the food and Parkmor was always busy," Zemen said. "We are going to see that corner hopping again when Culver's moves in. People are eager to see this franchise open in Highland."

EVENT SECURITY FEE

The Town Council has approved a law requiring private groups to reimburse the town for events where police are requested or required.

The minimum fee of \$250 was requested by Chief Pete Hojnicky to recover the cost of providing officers at events, such as fund-raising marches, walks and runs. The council vote followed months of discussion about the impact the fee would have.

The new law does not apply to town-sponsored events.

MUSIC AT THE MARKET

Fancy a little Mozart with that melon? Or some Elvis with your eggplant? Student, as well as professional, musicians are lining up to entertain shoppers at the town's weekly market beginning in mid-August.

"Music at the Market" is part of an ongoing effort spearheaded by the Highland Main Street Commission to increase the presence of performance and display arts throughout town.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays

DATES: Now through Oct. 20

WHERE: Main Square Park

INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.

RAILROAD UPDATE

Traffic has returned to normal following repairs on the Norfolk Southern Railroad crossings at Highway Avenue and Lincoln Street. The repairs have made both crossings smoother for vehicular traffic.



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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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The Gazebo Express is produced by:

The Idea Factory • (219) 381-0634
www.theideafactory.us.com

Printed by CJ Printing
9445 Indianapolis Blvd.  94
Highland, IN 46322

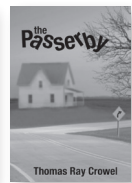
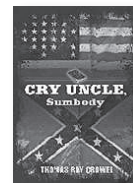
HIGHLAND FICTION AUTHOR RECEIVES LITERARY AWARD IN NEW YORK CITY

In his job in sales, Thomas Crowel has knocked on more than 250,000 doors. He heads a trio of wildly successful companies and volunteers his time serving on government commissions. He's even a pastor who founded a ministry to keep convicted criminals from landing back in jail.

If you ask him today what gives him the most satisfaction, he will likely tell you it is his latest career as a writer of fact-based fiction. After being told by a college English professor that he had a talent for writing, Crowel authored three novels, one of which has helped solve a 20-year-old murder, which occurred, coincidentally, in a home built by Crowel's ancestors.

The latest offering, "Cry Uncle Sumbody" is the recipient of the 2012 Independent Book Publishers Association Benjamin Franklin Award for historical fiction. Crowel accepted the award at a ceremony in New York City in June.


The novel is woven around the Civil War diary



WHERE TO BUY

"Cry Uncle Sumbody," "Scattered Harvest" and "The Passerby" are available at amazon.com, Barnes & Noble and Crowel Agency, 8244 Kennedy. **INFO:** simpleselling.net or call (219) 923-2131.

of an Indiana soldier, who fought for the south.

"I found the diary in an old caboose on a farm in Marshall County. The farmer said I could have it," he said. "The novel is written from the point of view of the soldier who poured his heart into this diary. I came to know this young soldier, whose name was David, and feel privileged that I was able to tell his story." 

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR TOWN LEADERS: CECILE PETRO

REDEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR TAKES INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO BUSINESS, RESIDENTIAL GROWTH

After a full career working in the public, private and not-for-profit business sectors, Cecile Petro has found a calling as the town's Redevelopment Director that combines the best of all disciplines.



PETRO "I love this job," she said. "There is such a broad range to what I do – working with individuals, networking with business, working with government. This job calls on me to stretch every talent I have and every skill I have learned."

Seven years into the job, the mother of three grown sons, says she has been blessed with a Redevelopment Commission that gives her the freedom to try innovative methods to encourage business and residential growth.

The result has been pop-up art galleries, neighborhood improvement initiatives and a business community that is decidedly on the move.


As part of her vision for growth, Petro was instrumental in creating and qualifying the Main

REDEVELOPING HIGHLAND

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION: This group is made up of five voting members appointed by the Town Council and two non-voting members appointed by the school town. The commission is responsible for targeting and assisting areas in town that could benefit from redevelopment.

HIGHLAND MAIN STREET BUREAU: This group was established to promote growth, development and stability using public/private partnerships to achieve those goals. Highland Main Street is made up of the members from the Redevelopment Commission along with a Steering Committee, which can have as many as 20 members.

Street Bureau, which promotes downtown redevelopment, as well as the Highland Community Foundation, a not-for-profit fund-raising entity for quality-of-life enhancements.

"The next few years are going to be dramatic to watch as these various projects take root and flourish," she said. "Our residents are stepping up to the plate because they really want to help the town move forward." 

HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TOWN MUSEUM REOPENS INSIDE LINCOLN CENTER

Artifacts — both long-held and newly acquired — are back on display at Lincoln Center.

More than a year after Highland Historical Society President Sue Douthett and a small contingent of volunteers painstakingly packed thousands of vintage photos and other treasured pieces of the town's past to make way for reconstruction of the community center,

the group has unpacked and rearranged displays in their new home.

Arrowheads recovered from farm fields north and south of The Ridge, an original railroad switcher, even balms and salves that were available from the town apothecary in the early 1900's are on exhibit in the airy and bright new space.

Recently added to the collection are a pair of paintings of Jansen's Fruit Market and Mary Ann Garden Center by Mary Ellen Szendry. The paintings were donated by Delia (Szendry) Helpingstine on behalf of the Szendry family.

"It's taken several months to get everything moved back. We just reopened the museum at the end of July," says Douthett, who has been the volunteer museum curator for more than a decade. "I'm glad we have a place to call home again."

Douthett isn't a native but has become a walking encyclopedia

of Highland knowledge, facts and lore. Along the way, she has developed a fascination and an affinity with the town and its long-time residents.

"My husband is a descendant of the Johnston family and he always loved Highland. There are many people in town whose families helped establish the town," she says. "It says a lot when you have several generations of families who are still here. This is a big town, but it has a small town feel." 🐾

MUSEUM HOURS

7 to 9 p.m.
Thursdays
10 a.m. to noon
Saturdays

LOCATION

Room 111 in
Lincoln Center

VOLUNTEERS

The Highland Historical Society plans to open one afternoon during the week this fall but needs additional volunteers to staff the museum. If you can help or would like to join the society, please call Sue Douthett at (219) 730-5024.



BUSINESS IS BOOMING

A bevy of new businesses are quickly filling once-vacant storefronts and Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said there are more on the way.

"We've been getting a great deal of interest from people wanting to know about the locations of vacant commercial buildings in town," Petro said. "We are expecting a couple of other businesses to open later this summer or early fall."

The uptick in commercial interest is not confined to one corridor, but is scattered throughout town.

"Highland is a great community to do business in and there is no indication we have peaked," she said. Here are just a few of the new retail businesses popping up around town:

- **FLIPSIDE CLOTHING**
WHAT: New and gently used clothing, shoes and accessories.
WHERE: 8905 Indianapolis Blvd.
INFO: (219) 595-0019
- **4 SEASONS NAILS**
WHAT: Full-service nail salon
WHERE: 8905 Indianapolis Blvd.
INFO: (219) 923-3331
- **GRECO NUT & CANDY OUTLET**
WHAT: Bulk nut and candy store.
WHERE: 2034 45th St.
INFO: (219) 924-7940
- **PRIMITIVE PEDDLER**
WHAT: Home furnishings, candles, antiques and more.
WHERE: 2813 Jewett St.
INFO: (219) 381-0508
- **RED MANGO**
WHAT: All-natural nonfat frozen yogurt and fresh-fruit smoothies.
WHERE: 10351 Indianapolis Blvd.
INFO: (219) 924-7622
- **0814 STUDIO SALON & SPA**
WHAT: Full-service salon and spa.
WHERE: 2929-45th Ave.
INFO: (219) 313-8498

FOUNDATION DIRECTOR

Highland resident Tony Englert has been named the regional executive director of the Franciscan Alliance Foundation.

In that capacity, Englert will be in charge of development and fund-raising for the Franciscan Alliance hospitals in Hammond, Munster, Dyer, Crown Point and Michigan City.

The philanthropic efforts help finance improvements throughout the hospital system, including clinics that serve the underprivileged, new equipment such as digital mammography and cancer-fighting technologies, which expand healthcare throughout the region.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

The North Township concert series continues through August. Grab a lawn chair and your favorite bug spray and head to the park.

DOORS OPEN: 7 p.m. **AUGUST 2 and 9**

SHOWTIME: 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

WHERE: Wicker Park Gazebo

ADMISSION: \$5 for ages 21 and over

INFO: Visit www.wickermemorialpark.com for the concert lineup or call (219) 838-3420.

A CENTURY OF MUSIC

Highland Community Theater presents "A Century of Music," a musical featuring your favorite tunes from 1920 to present. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket for seating.

WHEN: 8 p.m. **AUGUST 9-11**

WHERE: Main Square Park Gazebo

ADMISSION: Free

INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.

MOVIES IN THE PARK

Enjoy an evening in the park and watch "Puss in Boots" on the big screen. The concession stand will be selling popcorn and fountain drinks. Bring a blanket or lawn chair for comfortable seating.

WHEN: dusk **AUGUST 17**

WHERE: Main Square Park

INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.

RAILCATS NIGHT

Join us for North Township Night at U.S. Steel Yard! Transportation from Wicker Park is available on a first-come, first-serve basis or you can provide your own transportation. Buses depart from Wicker Park at 6:15 p.m.

WHEN: 7 p.m. **AUGUST 17**

WHERE: U.S. Steel Yard in Gary

TICKETS: \$7 tickets are available for North Township residents at the Wicker Park office.

INFO: Call Anna at (219) 798-4272.

NFL PUNT, PASS & KICK

This free event — held in conjunction with the Highland High School Tailgate party — is open to boys and girls ages 8-15.

WHEN: 5 p.m. **AUGUST 24**

WHERE: Highland High School baseball field

REGISTRATION: Deadline is Aug. 18. Birth certificate required.

NOTE: Tennis shoes only; no cleats.

INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.

BATTLE ON THE RIDGE

This Revolutionary War reenactment begins with opening colours at 10 a.m. each day. Come see the unique uniforms, camps and artillery.

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **AUGUST 25-26**

WHERE: Main Square Park

INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.

Midwest Zest Fest

SEPTEMBER
7-8-9

MAIN SQUARE PARK



The Midwest Zest Fest has it all ... free admission, free parking, fun carnival rides, your favorite festival food, arts & crafts, live music, a 5K race, and the crowning of a king and queen. If that's not enough, stop at the Sour Note Karaoke Bar in the beer tent to whet your whistle and sing a tune. It's three days and more than five acres packed full of fun! What a great way to say farewell to summer!

AMUSEMENT RIDES

The carnival rides range from small rides for preschool children to large rides for teens and adults. Wristband days allow folks to ride all they want for \$15 from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

FREE ENTERTAINMENT

A variety of entertainment is featured every day on the Gazebo Stage in the center of the park. From live bands to contests, there is something that appeals to almost every taste at the festival.

LEMON KING AND QUEEN

The 2012 Lemon King and Queen will lead a conga line through Main Square Park in their Royal Lemon Carriage following the crowning ceremony. Join us for the lemony fun and tag along!

SOUR NOTE KARAOKE BAR

Beer and other libations are served in a tented area from 4 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday. Stop by the Sour Note Karaoke Bar and sing a tune from 7 to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Visit www.MIDWESTZESTFEST.com for updates!